



Article Alert

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Honoring U.S. Presidents

Honoring U.S. Presidents Washington and Lincoln

Washington's Birthday is a U.S. federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States. Increasingly, the holiday has become an occasion to celebrate the birthdays of both President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln. Many Americans call the holiday Presidents' Day.

George Washington

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, on his father's tobacco plantation in Colonial Virginia. He worked as a surveyor on the Virginia frontier and then became a major in the Virginia militia. After serving heroically during the French and Indian War, he returned to his family's Virginia home, Mount Vernon, and became a successful planter.

In 1775, when the American War for Independence broke out between the colonies and Great Britain, Washington was unanimously selected by the Continental Congress as commander in chief of the Continental Army. His small band of soldiers faced a well-equipped, professional army, but he led his often ragged forces to victory in the face of incredible hardships. The British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. In 1796, the U.S. Congress posthumously promoted Washington to the rank of six-star general, assuring that he would forever outrank all other members of the military.

Washington enjoyed nearly universal respect, not least for spurning all offers of political power at the moment of his military triumph. He instead chose to return to private life at Mount Vernon. In 1787 he presided

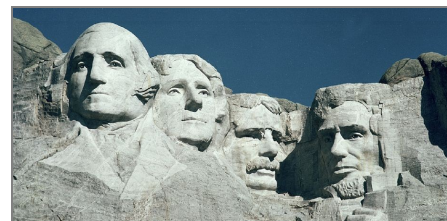
over the writing of the U.S. Constitution, and once it was ratified, he became the unanimous choice to be the first president of the United States. He served two four-year terms, from 1789 to 1797. At the end of his second term, Washington was the most popular figure in America and could have continued as president, but he relinquished power, thereby setting a precedent for his successors.

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, and became America's 16th president in 1860. As president he guided his country through a great constitutional, military and moral crisis — the American Civil War (1861–1865) — after 11 of 15 Southern slaveholding states seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America. His Emancipation Proclamation issued on January 1, 1863, outlawed slavery in the Confederate states still in rebellion.

The proclamation changed the war from a conflict over states' rights to a war whose aims included the destruction of slavery. Lincoln believed that a constitutional amendment was necessary to ensure the end of slavery, and he supported passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which was adopted in December 1865. Lincoln was shot to death by a Confederate sympathizer on April 9, 1865, five days after the Confederacy surrendered.

Honoring both Presidents February 22 was celebrated as a holiday by 19th-century Americans. At least a dozen states officially celebrate the third Monday in February as "Washington and Lincoln's Birthday," and another dozen states call it



The Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota features representations of U.S. presidents. From the left, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

"Presidents' Day." In 1971, Congress fixed Washington's Birthday and several other holidays on Mondays to create long holiday weekends.

As much as both Washington and Lincoln are revered, the federal holiday officially remains Washington's Birthday. The first president is also honored with many statues around the country and the 555-foot-high (169-meter) Washington Monument in the nation's capital, Washington.

Likenesses of both Washington and Lincoln are carved in stone on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, along with Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt.

The holiday is also a tribute to the general who created the first military badge of merit for the common soldier. Revived on Washington's 200th birthday in 1932, the Purple Heart medal (which bears Washington's image) is awarded to soldiers who are injured in battle. As with Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Washington's Birthday offers another opportunity for the United States to honor its veterans.

Related links:

- ◇ IIP Digital iipdigital.usembassy.gov
- ◇ Learn More About Each President <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/>

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Super Tuesday

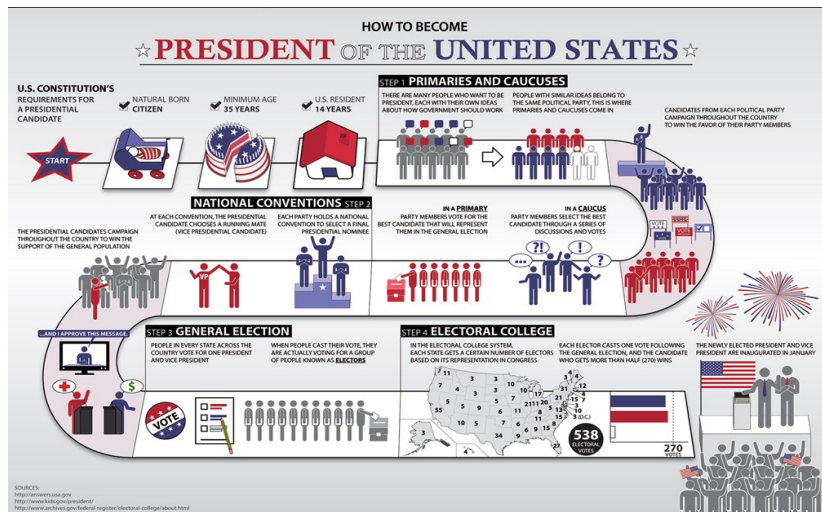
Super Tuesday merupakan bagian dari pemilihan pendahuluan (primaries) dan caucus-caucus yang

diadakan oleh beberapa Negara Bagian pada Selasa pertama di bulan Maret pada tahun yang sama dengan tahun Pemilihan Presiden Amerika Serikat.

Ajang ini menjadi sangat penting dalam proses pemilihan Presiden A.S. karena sekitar setengah dari delegasi yang dibutuhkan untuk meraih nominasi partai dapat dimenangkan di ajang *Super Tuesday*.

Perjalanan *Super Tuesday*

Meski jumlah Negara Bagian yang ikut serta dalam *Super Tuesday* berbeda-beda tiap periode pemilihan presiden, *Super Tuesday* merupakan bagian dari proses pemilihan presiden yang dianggap penting oleh para kandidat presiden, negara bagian yang ikut serta dan bagi para pemilih itu sendiri. Pada pemilihan presiden tahun 2000 tercatat sebanyak 16 Negara Bagian yang ikut serta dalam *Super Tuesday*, pada 2004 sebanyak sepuluh Negara Bagian dan pada Selasa 6 Maret 2012 ini akan ada sepuluh Negara Bagian yang ikut serta. Berikut Negara Bagian yang ikut serta dalam *Super Tuesday* 2012: Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia. Negara-negara Bagian di Amerika Serikat memiliki hak untuk menyelenggarakan proses pemilihan pada waktu-waktu yang mereka tetapkan sendiri. Tetapi pada tahun 1988, sembilan Negara Bagian yang terletak di sebelah selatan Amerika bersepakat untuk melaksanakan pemilihan di hari yang sama yaitu Selasa 8 Maret 1988 yang bertujuan mendapatkan dukungan yang lebih luas pada proses pemilihan



umum yang berlangsung pada tahun tersebut. Ini kemudian menjadi cikal bakal *Super Tuesday* pada proses pemilihan Presiden A.S. berikutnya.

Performa yang baik dari tiap kandidat calon presiden pada ajang *Super Tuesday* ini dianggap mampu meningkatkan secara signifikan jumlah pemilih yang dapat mereka menangkan pada proses PEMILU Presiden. Walaupun *Super Tuesday* tidak termasuk kedalam kegiatan awal pada kalender kegiatan pemilihan presiden tetapi jumlah delegasi yang ikut didalamnya lebih besar dari jumlah delegasi pada pemilihan pendahuluan manapun, sehingga calon presiden yang akan dinominasikan dapat dikatakan sudah ditentukan dari hasil *Super Tuesday* ini. Untuk lebih memahami jalannya proses pemilu di A.S. lihat bagan diatas.

Daftar Istilah:

Caucus adalah pertemuan pada tingkat lokal dimana para anggota-anggota partai yang terdaftar dari suatu daerah, kota ataupun pemerintah daerah berkumpul untuk memberikan

dukungan terhadap calon-calon terpilih. Pada skala Negara Bagian, dukungan ini ditujukan untuk menentukan nominasi kepala Negara Bagian. Pengertian lain dari caucus dipakai juga untuk menjelaskan gabungan dari kelompok yang mempunyai visi yang sama terhadap agenda-agenda politik tertentu. Dua kelompok terkenal dari contoh pengertian caucus ini adalah *Congressional Black Caucus* and *Congressional Hispanic Caucus* yang mana anggota-anggotanya berkumpul untuk membicarakan dan mengemukakan kepentingan-kepentingan dari konstituen mereka masing-masing. Untuk lebih jelasnya, silahkan lihat video mengenai caucus "U.S. Elections: Caucuses Explained," di alamat <http://goo.gl/B2Pma>

Pemilihan Pendahuluan adalah pemilihan tingkat Negara Bagian, dimana pemilih akan memilih kandidat dari partai politik tertentu yang nantinya kandidat tersebut akan menjadi saingan dari kandidat partai politik lain pada tahap pemilihan umum. Untuk lebih jelasnya silahkan lihat video mengenai primary "U.S. Elections: Primaries," dialamat <http://goo.gl/fuiim>

Sumber: Encyclopedia of American Political Parties and Elections (2007) dan IIP Digital (iipdigital.state.gov)

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

1. Fischetti, Mark. **NEW ORLEANS PROTECTION PLAN WILL RELY ON WETLANDS TO HOLD BACK HURRICANES** (Scientific American blog, January 26, 2012)

More than six years after Hurricane Katrina plowed into New Orleans and the Mississippi River delta, a plan has finally emerged to protect the area from future storms. It relies heavily on the restoration of wetlands to cut down high surges of ocean water like those that flooded the

city in 2005—somewhat of a surprise, considering past efforts focused on levees and seawalls. Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/hhlc3>

2. d'Estries, Michael. **TOP FIVE MOST SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN THE WORLD** (Ecoimagination.com, General Electric, November 29, 2011)

From using renewable energy to cutting back

on emissions, five cities across the globe are leading the way when it comes to implementing sustainable initiatives. Ecorazzi.com co-founder d'Estries lists Vancouver, San Francisco, Oslo, Curitiba (Brazil), and Copenhagen as the "most sustainable cities" based on their attempts to use alternate sources of power and to reduce carbon emissions. Currently available at <http://goo.gl/Bf3Am>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

3. Stecopoulos, Harilaos. **TELLING AMERICA'S STORY TO THE WORLD** (American Quarterly)

In his review of four recent books on the U.S. Information Agency and the practice of public diplomacy, Stecopoulos, assistant professor at the University of Iowa, evaluates the works of several scholars who, in his words, "have proved influential in setting the public terms of the debate about U.S. propaganda during the Bush and Obama eras." According to Stecopoulos, the four authors (Nicholas Cull, Andrew Falk, Yale Richmond and Nancy Snow), aim to demonstrate that the history of U.S. public diplomacy offers valuable lessons for the present, to establish that

public diplomacy can never be a unilateral effort, and to emphasize that public diplomacy is not insignificant, but should be a major part of foreign policy.

4. Gallagher, Anne T. **IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. 'TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS' REPORTS** (Human Rights Review, 2011, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 381-400)

In 2000, the United States Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act requiring the State Department to issue annual

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports describing "the nature and extent of severe forms of trafficking in persons" and assessing governmental efforts across the world to combat trafficking against the criteria established by US law. This article examines the opportunities and risks presented by the TIP Reports, tracing their evolution over the past decade and considering impact on the behavior of states. In looking to the future, the article focuses on how this influential compliance mechanism could improve its legitimacy, respond to negative impacts, and better contribute to the international legal regime around trafficking.

Currently available online at <http://goo.gl/b7iHp>

U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY & VALUES

5. Skerry, Peter. **THE MUSLIM-AMERICAN MUDDLE** (National Affairs, no. 9, Fall 2011)

Skerry looks at Muslims in the United States and how Islam has both affected America and how America has affected Islam, especially in terms of political participation. The "muddle" he describes comes from the competing tugs on an individual Muslim's loyalties to country and to faith, a problem which is greater or smaller depending on that individual's "denomination" within Islam as well as his ethnicity and national origin. Skerry also examines the histories and roles of various Muslim and Muslim-American organizations. Available online at <http://goo.gl/1V7qV>

6. Rieder, Rem. **POLITICAL JOURNALISM: PICKING THE WINNER WHILE THE GAME'S STILL GOING ON** (American Journalism Review, December 2011/January 2012)

"Overreacting to the momentum of the moment is hardly a new phenomenon," says Rieder as he discusses the tendency among political journalists, one they share with sportswriters, to emphasize the story of the frontrunner but change directions as soon as something unexpected happens, like the sudden surge of Newt Gingrich as a serious challenger to Mitt Romney after months of a near-consensus among journalists that Romney would be the 2012 Republican nominee. Part of the problem is the 24/7 news coverage available on cable TV. Rieder argues that citizens should resist the steady drumbeat "because the constant stream of premature if not erroneous conclusions, the dizzying whipsawing, does nothing but diminish the already sagging credibility of the news media." Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/aUjHd>

7. Levin, Kevin. **NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S CIVIL WAR COMMEMORATION** (The Atlantic, December 13, 2011)

At the conclusion of 2011, the sesquicentennial of the outbreak of the American Civil War, historian Kevin Levin took a close look at how the recent commemoration differed from the centennial commemoration of 1961-65. It is no small indication of what has been called "American exceptionalism" that men whose ancestors fought each other to the death 150 years ago can today sit down in peace to discuss, even argue about, the causes, hold joint memorial services, and recreate the battles, without rancor and in a spirit of historical remembrance of a joint heritage. Few nations are so blessed as to be able and willing to do this. Available online at <http://goo.gl/SbWhI>

8. Holeywell, Ryan. **HOW LANGUAGE FITS INTO THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE** (Governing, January 2012)

When Palermo Galindo immigrated to the United States as a 15-year-old, he knew almost no English. What he did know were the challenges that came with being a stranger to his new community, country and language. Thirty years later, Galindo is helping others overcome those struggles by serving the city government of Fort Wayne, Ind., as liaison to the Hispanic and immigrant communities. Among his tasks are promoting health services and English language classes that are available to immigrants. "I'm the result of a lot of people investing in [me]," Galindo says. In his new role, he's helping the city make a similar investment. Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/54N6M>

9. Herther, Nancy K. **LANGUAGE TRANSLATION IN THE INTERNET AGE 'MY HOVER CRAFT IS FULL OF EELS'** (Searcher, January/February 2012, Vol. 20, No. 1)

The internet has become a major communications system engulfing all aspects of commerce, government, education, information, healthcare, and other arenas. However, webpages are developed not only to convey information, but to market items. Webpages are designed to attract users and to keep them coming back. Along with poor design and typos, issues of unclear messages plague many websites today. The internet has become a major communications system engulfing all aspects of commerce, government, education, information, healthcare, and other arenas. However, webpages are developed not only to convey information, but to market items. Webpages are designed to attract users and to keep them coming back. Along with poor design and typos, issues of unclear messages plague many websites today. Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/yNIMM>

IIP DIGITAL VIDEOS

The American West Series

America Out West: Profile of a Rancher Family
Available at <http://goo.gl/ejFxh>

America Out West: An Architectural Tradition
Available at <http://goo.gl/f72ik>

America Out West: Women's Barrel Racing
Available at <http://goo.gl/4fp3W>

America Out West: Helicopter Cowboys
Available at <http://goo.gl/zJ9sX>

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